

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A printing method, comprising the steps of:
2 receiving data at a printer;
3 detecting a barcode in the received data;
4 translating the barcode to an external network address;
5 sending on the Internet or other external network an access
6 request for a document to the external network address;
7 retrieving the document from the external network address;
8 and
9 printing the document.

10 2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the network
11 address is a URL.

12 3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said receiving
13 data step
14 comprises receiving an e-mail containing said data.

15 4. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said receiving
16 data step comprises receiving an e-mail with an attachment containing
17 said data.

18 5. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said translating
19 step
20 comprises translating the barcode to obtain a PIN#; and
21 wherein said sending step includes sending the PIN# with
22 the access request to the external network address for determining if the
23 request is authorized.

24 6. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the detecting a
25 barcode step comprises interpreting a wrapper indicating that a binary
26 sequence is a barcode.

27 7. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the
28 steps of:

29 displaying a menu of print formats for a user to select to
30 print the document; and

31 receiving a selection of one of said print formats displayed to
32 the user.

33 8. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the
34 steps of:

35 displaying a field for a transmission address;
36 receiving a transmission address for another device in said
37 field; and
38 sending the document to said another device.

39 9. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the translated
40 barcode includes

41 information on printing the document inside another
42 document; and

43 further comprising the step of printing the document inside
44 the other document in accordance with the printing information upon
45 receipt of the document at the printer.

46 10. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the
47 step of printing the document inside a master document.

48 11. The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the translation
49 step comprises

50 translating the barcode to obtain at least one identifier that
51 designates the type of contents in said document; and
52 determining a location of the document within the master
53 document based on said identifier.

54 12. The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the translation
55 step comprises translating the barcode to obtain coordinates designating a
56 portion of the master document; and
57 determining a location of the document within the master
58 document based on said coordinates.

59 13. The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the
60 step of determining a location of the document within the master
61 document based on a rule.

62 14. The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the document
63 and the master document are merged to form a single document in a
64 desired format.

65 15. The method as defined in 10, wherein said detecting a
66 barcode step comprises detecting a plurality of barcodes; and further
67 comprising
68 determining a URL in each of the plurality of barcodes;
69 sending on the Internet an access request to each of the
70 URL's;
71 retrieving a document from each of the URL's;
72 merging the documents from the URL's with the master
73 document to obtain a merged document; and
74 printing the merged document.

75 16. A printing method, comprising the steps of:
76 receiving data at a printer;

77 detecting a barcode in the received data;
78 translating the barcode to a URL;
79 searching for an Internet access device to access the
80 Internet;
81 sending through the Internet access device an access
82 request for a document to the URL;
83 retrieving to the Internet device the document from the URL;
84 and
85 printing the document.

86 17. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said receiving
87 data step
88 comprises receiving an e-mail containing said data.

89 18. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said translating
90 step
91 comprises translating the barcode to obtain a PIN#; and
92 wherein said sending step includes sending the PIN# with the
93 access request to the URL for determining if the request is authorized.

94 19. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein the translated
95 barcode includes
96 information on printing the document inside another
97 document; and
98 further comprising the step of printing the document inside
99 the other document in accordance with the printing information upon
100 receipt of the document at the printer.

101 20. The method as defined in claim 16, further comprising the
102 step of printing the document inside a master document.

103 21. A system for printing documents, comprising:

104 a first component for receiving data at a printer;
105 a second component for detecting a barcode in the received
106 data;
107 a third component for translating the barcode to an external
108 network address;
109 a fourth component for sending on the Internet or other
110 external network an access request for a document to the external
111 network address;
112 a fifth component for retrieving the document from the
113 external network address; and
114 a sixth component for printing the document.

115 22. A program product for printing documents, comprising:
116 first code for receiving data at a printer;
117 second code for detecting a barcode in the received data;
118 third code for translating the barcode to an external network
119 address;
120 fourth code for sending on the Internet or other external
121 network an access request for a document to the external network
122 address;
123 fifth code for retrieving the document from the external
124 network address; and
125 sixth code for printing the document